



CITY COUNCIL

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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COUNCILMEMBER DJOU INTRODUCES BILL TO REGULATE STREET PERFORMERS ON KALAKAUA AVENUE

Councilmember Charles K. Djou (Waikiki, East Honolulu) introduced Bill 71 to limit street performers on Kalakaua Avenue in Waikiki.

“Although I certainly welcome the color street performers add to Waikiki sidewalks, at peak pedestrian usage times, these street performers can be a traffic and safety hazard.

Businesses along Kalakaua are also adversely affected when street performers block the entrance to their stores. My measure allows street performers in Waikiki, but restricts their use of the public sidewalk on four blocks of Kalakaua Avenue during the busiest pedestrian times from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. The public sidewalks are built for walking, not performances, and the City must balance the public need for a reasonable and safe use of the City sidewalk,” stated Councilmember Djou.

Bill 71, introduced by Councilmember Djou and co-sponsored by five other councilmembers, only restricts street performers from using a four-block area along Kalakaua Avenue from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. There are over 80 blocks in Waikiki where this restriction does not apply. In 2000, the City passed an ordinance that completely banned all street performers on

all Waikiki streets at all times except in six specific locations and required that street performers obtain a permit. A court struck down this ordinance as overly restrictive. The bill introduced by Councilmember Djou is far more narrowly tailored to address the court's specific concerns and does not include any permitting or registration system for street performers. Djou's measure was crafted using a pedestrian traffic study conducted by the University of Hawaii that showed street performers create elevated pedestrian congestion problems during peak hours. Councilmember Djou also used extensive input from the Honolulu Police Department, City Prosecutor's Office and the Waikiki Business Improvement District membership in drafting this measure.

Bill 71 passed first reading yesterday and will be heard before the Executive Matters and Legal Affairs committee, chaired by Councilmember Djou, at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, November 17, 2005, at City Council's committee room.

"Just as the City's restrictions on handbills and animal solicitations improved the Waikiki experience for visitors and locals alike, this measure addresses safety concerns and will similarly enhance the atmosphere of Waikiki for all members of the public," added Councilmember Djou.

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